USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter
January 28, 2003

This newsletter provides regular updates on the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of HIV/AIDS and partner activities to prevent and mitigate HIV/AIDS across the developing world. We encourage you to circulate this publication to colleagues.

CONTENTS
Announcements
Upcoming Meetings and Events
Recent Events
Publications and Resources

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

USAID-Funded Film Delivers Safe Sex Message
A recent "Wall Street Journal" article about the use of commercial films to help spread messages concerning sexual behavior in Nigeria prominently features Family Health International's work in the country. The article notes, "In just four months, and at a cost of only $29,000, the U.S.-government-financed feature film, 'Awakening,' has reached an audience estimated to number in the tens of millions, through theaters, national television broadcasts, and black-market videos. 'Awakening 2' is now in production. And the plot of 'Awakening 3' is incubating…." Family Health International manages the film project for USAID. To read the article, see:
http://online.wsj.com/article_email/0,,SB1040350642839140753,00.html.

Horizons to Help Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Improve Support for AIDS-Affected Children
The Horizons program recently signed an agreement with the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund in South Africa to provide technical support to the Goelama Project, a five-year effort to address the socioeconomic needs of orphans and vulnerable children. To learn more about the project, go to:
http://www.popcouncil.org/horizons/mandela.html.

The Synergy Project Launches HIV/AIDS Programming Toolkit Website and CD-ROM
The Synergy APDIME Toolkit is an electronic, user-oriented, one-stop shop of HIV/AIDS programming resources. Developed in collaboration with the University of Washington, the Toolkit contains five modules covering Assessment, Planning, Design, Implementation Monitoring, and Evaluation. Each module outlines a comprehensive step-by-step method and links to hundreds of USAID and partner resources for programming. HIV/AIDS specialists and USAID-funded partners are especially invited to submit materials and suggestions for inclusion in this shared resource. The Toolkit and CD-ROM order form can be accessed at: http://www.synergyaids.com.

Conecta Project Launched in Dominican Republic
Family Health International officially launched the USAID-funded *Conecta* project in the Dominican Republic on Tuesday, December 17, 2002. USAID awarded Family Health International and its partners $35 million this past October to lead the five-year project, which will address health issues in family planning, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, maternal mortality, child survival, and health sector reform. For more information about the project, see: http://www.fhi.org/en/gen/releases/newsrel7.html.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Regional AIDS Conference Calls for Abstracts
The 13th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (September 21-26, 2003, in Nairobi, Kenya) is inviting abstracts for presentation at the meeting. The abstracts must be submitted in either English or French and be between 100 and 300 words. The deadline is February 28, 2003. Abstract and registration forms can be downloaded at: www.icasanairobi2003.org.

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RECENT EVENTS

Health Experts Share Evidence of Success
"Fighting HIV/AIDS in Africa: What Works?" was the focus of a one-day conference, hosted by the Center for Global Development and John Snow, Inc., in Washington, DC, on January 8, 2003. USAID's Assistant Administrator for Global Health, Dr. Anne Peterson, participated in a panel on "Building on Successes: Moving Toward a Comprehensive Response." The conference presentations are available at: http://www.cgdev.org/events/HIV-AIDS.html.

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PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

POLICY Contributes to Publication on Managing HIV/AIDS Workplace Issues
The POLICY Project recently supported the development and publication of "Managing HIV/AIDS in the Workplace: A Guide for Government Departments." This guide is designed to assist national departments in South Africa in planning, developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating workplace HIV/AIDS policies and programs. To learn more, see: http://www.policyproject.com/page_whatsNew.cfm?read=28.

Subcommittee Releases Policy Document on Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Kenya
Kenya's Gender and HIV/AIDS Technical Subcommittee, which was co-founded by the USAID-funded POLICY Project, has completed a review of the gender sensitivity of the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan. The final report provides guidelines on how gender concerns can be integrated into the analysis, formulation, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programs relating to the five priority areas of the national strategic plan. The POLICY Project will offer ongoing technical support to the Subcommittee. To learn more, see http://www.policyproject.com/abstract.cfm?ID=1203.

Latest Horizons Newsletter Examines Operations Research Issues in Care and Support
The December 2002 issue of "Horizons Report" focuses on YRG CARE, an innovative nongovernmental organization in India that serves as a model for comprehensive, client-centered HIV/AIDS care. To view the newsletter, go to: http://www.popcouncil.org/horizons/newsletter/horizons(5).html.

New Tool Helps Improve Services for People Living With HIV/AIDS
The "Self-Assessment Checklist for a Patient-Friendly Environment," created as part of research conducted in India by Horizons and SHARAN, helps hospital managers identify institutional strengths and weaknesses, improve services, and address AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. Go to: http://www.popcouncil.org/horizons/pfechklst.html.

FANTA Highlights What We Already Know to Mitigate Impact of HIV/AIDS
The Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project explores "HIV/AIDS Mitigation: Using What We Already Know" in another of its Technical Notes. To download the publication, see: www.fantaproject.org.

Management for Sciences Announces New Guide to VCT Commodity Management
Management Sciences for Health has just released "Commodity Management in Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Programs: A Planning Guide" in collaboration with Family Health International. The practical guide is designed to help with establishing, managing, and scaling up VCT programs at both national and program levels. For more information, visit: www.msh.org/rpmplus.

Manual Provides Road Map for Designing and Implementing Program Monitoring and Evaluation
"National AIDS Councils: Monitoring and Evaluation Operations Manual," published by UNAIDS and the World Bank in 2002, attempts to: "introduce key concepts and present simple, clear procedures, with a checklist of the process, timing and costs of building participatory program monitoring and evaluation…." To view the manual, see: http://www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACQ452.pdf.

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USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS welcomes newsletter submissions from USAID Missions and partner agencies. Send information to enews@tvtassociates.com *by the 2nd of the month.*